AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) The laser imager according to claim 12 ~~claim 1~~, wherein said first optical system further comprises:

a lens placed between said laser light source and said bending element.

3. (Original) The laser imager according to claim 2, wherein said angle θxz is at least 4° and not more than 20°.

4. (Original) The laser imager according to claim 3, wherein said bending element comprises a total internal reflection prism.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) The laser imager according to claim 13 ~~claim 5~~, wherein said angle θxz is at least 4° and not more than 20°.

7. (Original) The laser imager according to claim 6, wherein said bending element comprises a total internal reflection prism.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) The laser imager according to claim 14 ~~claim 8~~, wherein said at least one optical element comprises a prism.

10. (Original) The laser imager according to claim 9, wherein said light beam reaches said spatial light modulator via said at least one optical element.

11. (Original) The laser imager according to claim 9, wherein said light beam is reflected by said spatial light modulator and thereafter incident upon said at least one optical element.

12. (New) A laser imager for recording an image on an image recording medium, comprising:

a) a laser light source emitting a first laser beam;

b) a first optical system converting said first laser beam to a second laser beam;

c) a reflection type spatial modulator which receives said second laser beam and generates a modulated third beam, said reflection type spatial modulator comprising reflecting ribbons arrayed in parallel and a glass window a small distance away from said reflecting ribbons; and

d) a second optical system comprising a focusing lens for focusing said third beam on said image recording medium, wherein

said first optical system comprises:

a bending element bending said first laser beam to convert said first laser beam to said second laser beam, and

an optical axis of said second laser beam incident onto said reflection type spatial modulator forms a nonzero angle θxz with the normal to the reflection type spatial modulator, whereby interference between first optical reflection at said reflecting ribbons and second optical reflection at said window glass is substantially prevented.

13. (New) A laser imager for recording an image on an image recording medium, comprising:

a) a laser light source emitting a first laser beam;

b) a first optical system converting said first laser beam to a second laser beam;

c) a reflection type spatial modulator which receives said second laser beam and generates a modulated third beam, said reflection type spatial modulator comprising reflecting ribbons arrayed in parallel and a glass window a small distance away from said reflecting ribbons; and

d) a second optical system for converting said third beam to a fourth light beam focused on said image recording medium, wherein

said second optical system comprises:

a bending element bending said third laser beam to convert said third beam to said fourth laser beam, and

an optical axis of said second laser beam incident onto said reflection type spatial modulator form a nonzero angle θxz with the normal to the reflection type spatial modulator,

whereby interference between first optical reflection at said reflecting ribbons and second optical reflection at said window glass is substantially prevented.

14. (New) A laser imager for recording an image on an image recording medium, comprising:

a) a laser light source emitting a laser beam; and

b) an optical system, changing an optical axis direction of said light beam for focusing said light beam on said image recording medium, comprising:

b-1) a reflection type spatial light modulator comprising a reflection part and a protective glass member arranged on said reflection part for receiving said light beam in a first direction and reflecting said light beam in a second direction inclined from said first direction to modulate said light beam, and

b-2) at least one optical element arranged in an optically serial order with said spatial light modulator for bending the optical axis direction of said light beam,

wherein an inclination angle between said first and second directions is established to substantially prevent interference between first optical reflection at said reflection part and second optical reflection at protective glass member.